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Summary record of the 15th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 2 October 2012, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Messone ..... (Gabon)
later: Ms. Andamo (Vice-Chair) ..... (Thailand)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Agenda item 51: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/C.4/67/L.2/Rev.1 and A/C.4/67/L.7)

Draft decision A/C.4/67/L.7: Increase in the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

1. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft decision A/C.4/67/L.7. He had been informed that the draft decision had no budgetary implications.

2. **Mr. Mammadaliyev** (Azerbaijan) said that his delegation fully supported the admission of Costa Rica and Jordan to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. However, when Armenia's application for membership had been reviewed at the Committee's fifty-fifth session, held in June 2012 in Vienna, no consensus had been reached. His Government had been prepared not to oppose the application, provided that Armenia gave a written guarantee that it would not hinder Azerbaijan's activities within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Armenia had rejected that gesture, thereby demonstrating its inability to cooperate in good faith within the Committee and leaving Azerbaijan in no doubt that it would use its membership to hamper Azerbaijan's activities. Armenia bore primary responsibility for unleashing a war of aggression against Azerbaijan, carrying out ethnic cleansing, committing other serious international crimes and advocating an undisguised racist ideology.

3. **Mr. Nazarian** (Armenia) said that he would not even respond to the allegations made by the representative of Azerbaijan. Armenia, like the two other applicant countries, recognized the common interest in furthering the peaceful uses of outer space and believed that space exploration should be used only for the betterment of humankind, regardless of a country's stage of development or the state of its bilateral relations.

4. At the fifty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, members had been briefed in detail on the contributions made by Armenian scientists to the knowledge-intensive field of outer space. Those scientists cooperated with a number of space-related organizations in connection with their research and Armenia was a contributor to the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). Drawing attention to the Committee's focus on regional cooperation and balanced enlargement of its membership, he noted that draft decision A/C.4/67/L.7 would contribute to geographically balanced representation on the Committee by admitting applicants from Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. His delegation requested a vote on any proposal by Azerbaijan to amend the draft decision.

6. **Mr. Panin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation supported Armenia's admission to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The three applicant States should be admitted as a single group. That position was based on the agreement reached at the Committee's fifty-fifth session and on individual States' eligibility to participate in the Committee. He did not see how Armenia was any less eligible than the States that had been admitted as a single group the previous year. Issues arising out of bilateral relations had no place in a discussion on membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and should be resolved bilaterally in another forum.

7. **Mr. Mammadaliyev** (Azerbaijan) said that, contrary to the assertion made by the representative of the Russian Federation, no agreement had been reached in Vienna and applicants had not been admitted as a group in the past. His delegation therefore proposed that the draft decision should be amended by deleting the reference to Armenia.

8. *At the request of the representative of Armenia, a recorded vote was taken on the amendment proposed by Azerbaijan to draft decision A/C.4/67/L.7.*

In favour:

Azerbaijan, Gabon, Niger, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates.

Against:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Libya,

Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.

Abstaining:

Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Fiji, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Tunisia, Tuvalu, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia.

9. *The amendment was rejected by 85 votes to 6, with 27 abstentions.**

10. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that his delegation had voted against the amendment because it believed, like Armenia, that there should be regional balance in the composition of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It also felt that Azerbaijan's accusations against Armenia were irrelevant to the issue at hand. If a rule were to be adopted that countries occupying other countries should be excluded from membership in United Nations bodies, his delegation would willingly join with Azerbaijan in rooting them out, including from the Security Council.

11. *A recorded vote was taken on draft decision A/C.4/67/L.7.*

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against:

Fiji.

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Turkey.

12. *The draft decision was adopted by 127 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.**

13. **Ms. Rafti** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union and its member States had voted in favour of the draft decision because they supported the principle that all Member States had the right to become members of United Nations bodies, provided that the relevant rules and procedures were respected. Challenging that principle on political grounds would set a dangerous precedent and undermine the spirit of respect and cooperation that should preside over the work of the Fourth Committee and the United Nations in general.

14. **Mr. Ulibarri** (Costa Rica) thanked delegations for supporting Costa Rica's admission to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It was

* The delegations of Gabon and Niger subsequently informed the Committee that they had intended to vote against the proposed amendment.

* The delegation of Fiji subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft decision.

regrettable that it had not been possible to adopt that decision by consensus at the Committee's fifty-fifth session in Vienna. Costa Rica's entry to the Committee would enable it to continue building its capacities in space technology and its peaceful applications, for its own benefit and that of the international community. Recalling that the first Space Conference of the Americas had been held in Costa Rica in 1990, he said that his Government had established a National Council for Aerospace Research and Development (CONIDA) in 2011. It had also signed a memorandum of understanding with a number of bodies that would permit teacher training in space technology with a view to developing the national aerospace industry. Those and other actions demonstrated his Government's commitment to using space technology for environmental and educational purposes.

15. **Mr. Tarawneh** (Jordan) thanked all the delegations that had supported Jordan's application and expressed its determination to add value to activities in outer space.

16. **Mr. Eler** (Turkey) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the draft decision. As the discussions on agenda item 51 demonstrated, there was no clear consensus in the Fourth Committee as to the rules of procedure governing the appointment of new members to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. His delegation supported the practice of consensus in the Fourth Committee and felt that more effort could have been made to reach a consensus on the procedural and contextual aspects of the decision in document A/C.4/67/L.7.

17. **Mr. Mammadaliyev** (Azerbaijan) said that his delegation was sure that Jordan and Costa Rica would make a positive contribution to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It had been unable to support Armenia's application, however, because that country was carrying out a policy of aggression against Azerbaijan that had resulted in the occupation of 20 per cent of its territory and made every eighth person in Azerbaijan an internally displaced person or refugee. His delegation had serious doubts as to how an aggressor State could be represented in a Committee that advocated peaceful activities.

18. **Mr. Nazarian** (Armenia), speaking on a point of order, recalled that under rule 109 of the rules of procedure, the Chair was empowered to call a speaker to order if his remarks were not relevant to the discussion.

19. He expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Member States that had supported Armenia's application, along with those of Jordan and Costa Rica. At the fifty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, every member except Azerbaijan had supported all three applications. Contrary to the assertions of the representative of Azerbaijan, the uses of space had nothing to do with the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Draft resolution A/C.4/67/L.2/Rev.1: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

20. **Mr. Tadome** (Japan), introducing the draft resolution, said that the Working Group of the Whole established under agenda item 51 had held three meetings under the chairmanship of Mr. Yasushi Horikawa of Japan, Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Working Group had considered the draft resolution on item 51 put forward by Japan in document A/C.4/67/L.2. At its final meeting, the Working Group had approved the amended draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/67/L.2/Rev.1.

21. **The Chair** said that he had been informed that the draft resolution had no financial implications and that its sponsors hoped that it could be adopted without a vote.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.4/67/L.2/Rev.1 was adopted.*

23. *Ms. Andamo (Thailand) (Vice-Chair) took the Chair.*

Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/67/312-S/2012/645)

24. **Mr. Selim** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, noted that the Movement included most United Nations troop- and police-contributing countries, clearly demonstrating its commitment to helping maintain international peace and security. However, it was no longer sustainable for troop-contributing countries to subsidize United Nations peacekeeping operations. The mandates of peacekeeping missions should also not be changed without prior consultations with troop-contributing countries, which could give experience-based advice.

United Nations peacekeeping was at a critical juncture as a result both of increased demand and of the growing complexity of the tasks involved, which required improved conflict assessment capacity, effective planning based on accurate information, rapid response to emergencies and the necessary resources.

25. The Non-Aligned Movement reiterated the importance of reaching consensus among the Member States on policy development. The full participation of troop-contributing countries in policy formulation and decision-making was extremely important and he called on the Secretariat to refrain from working on policy lines that had not been agreed intergovernmentally. Greater political will was also needed to ensure the effectiveness of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as the sole body in charge of peacekeeping policy-making. Adoption of the Committee's report by consensus was a top priority for the Non-Aligned Movement.

26. A strong Security Council commitment to drafting clear and achievable mandates was needed, based on objective assessment and without rushing into the adoption of mandates that lacked a political basis or sufficient resources. Unjustified expansion in the capacity of peacekeeping operations to use force could easily blur the line between peacekeeping and peace enforcement or jeopardize the impartiality of a mission's military component.

27. More attention should also be paid to the exit strategy following resolution of a conflict, particularly in view of the growing demands by some States to terminate peacekeeping operations that had become conflict-management rather than conflict-resolution missions. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding must be integrated, so that peacekeeping was accompanied by economic recovery and capacity-building efforts based on national ownership. The Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund had a significant role to play in that regard. Protecting civilians was also important, although primary responsibility for doing so rested with host States.

28. The current lack of resources for peacekeeping operations deserved particular attention, as did the legal difficulties related to the characterization of civilians in armed conflicts as combatants. Extensive consultations were needed on the implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy in order to assist with logistical and administrative support. Police work in peacekeeping operations should also be supported, while avoiding duplication of military and police tasks.

29. Primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rested with the United Nations, and any regional arrangements must be in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. Intensified support for the African Union's peacekeeping operations, including predictable and sustainable funding, was needed. In that connection, the Movement welcomed the work of the Senior Advisory Group on troop costs, but emphasized that it was important that the Group complete its work in a timely manner in order to permit the establishment of a system for the periodic review of rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries.

30. **Mr. Sabyeroop** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that while ASEAN fully supported mediation wherever possible, it also believed that once conflict had erupted, peacekeeping remained a critical instrument for maintaining international peace and security. In order for peacekeeping to be effective, however, peacekeeping missions must be conducted in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as adhering to the three basic principles of consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate. Peacekeeping operations must also respect the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs. ASEAN stressed the importance of clear mandates, a unified line of command and efficient use of existing resources. It urged the inclusion of troop- and police-contributing countries in the early stages of mandate drafting, so that they could contribute experience from the field.

31. There were currently over 100,000 peacekeepers serving in 16 operations. Given the scale and constantly evolving needs of peacekeeping operations, ASEAN emphasized the importance of stronger coordination among troop- and police-contributing countries, the Security Council, the Secretariat and host Governments, with comprehensive and regular briefings on the situation of each operation.

32. Although consideration of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at the current session had taken longer than expected,

ASEAN was confident that the process of discussion and negotiation had been enriching and had clarified the critical importance of partnerships in supporting peacekeeping operations. It was important that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support should continue to implement the Special Committee's recommendations, in close consultation with Member States. While briefings by the two Departments were useful, they were not a substitute for intergovernmental consideration by the Special Committee.

33. It was essential to formulate an integrated approach to post-conflict development that built upon host country priorities through dialogue and cooperation, creating a sense of national ownership. In that regard, ASEAN appreciated the views expressed in the Secretary-General's report entitled "Civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict" (A/67/312-S/2012/645), notably that civilian capacities and institution-building could not be imposed from outside but had to come from a strong process of national decision-making. ASEAN also highlighted the important roles of the Peacebuilding Commission and of South-South and triangular cooperation in developing national capacity and mobilizing resources for institution-building.

34. Speaking as the representative of Thailand, he said that his Government condemned all acts of violence against United Nations peacekeepers and believed that all necessary measures must be taken to improve their security. Thailand's peacekeepers had also assisted in local and community development, sharing their best practices in agriculture, health and water resources management. To assist with post-conflict development, the Government was considering the creation of small, specialized contingents such as army engineers, medical units and female officer units. Such contingents would not only provide security but also serve as consultants and friends. They would be trained to understand the unique situation of post-conflict populations and fully to respect different cultures and beliefs. Thailand attached great importance to the role and impact of its women peacekeepers and intended to further empower them through the creation of a Subcommittee on Women and the Promotion of Peace and Security.

35. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the 14 member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), paid tribute to the more than 100,000 men and women currently serving in United Nations peacekeeping missions. Current international trends made it likely that there would be an increase in the demand for United Nations peacekeeping. The challenges faced in meeting the resource requirements of the various missions called for innovative approaches on the part of a united international community. CARICOM renewed its commitment to assist in that process.

36. As the Secretary-General pointed out in his report entitled "Civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict" (A/67/312-S/2012/645), countries emerging from conflict typically confronted a wide range of urgent demands to build and sustain peace, yet often faced a critical shortage of capacity to meet priority needs, creating a high risk of relapse in the early years of peace. Security, peace and development must therefore proceed in parallel, accompanied by appropriate civilian capacity-building.

37. CARICOM had been carefully monitoring the various reform efforts in the area of peacekeeping and looked forward to discussion of the latest progress report of the New Horizon Initiative. Since the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the only forum mandated to review the whole question of peacekeeping operations, CARICOM urged all parties to work together to ensure the timely delivery of its very important report. CARICOM was in full agreement with the Special Committee that peacekeeping operations should not be a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Addressing those root causes necessitated the use of political, social and development policy instruments and the full implementation by developed countries of prior commitments to assist developing countries in meeting their socioeconomic goals through the creation of viable opportunities for growth and development.

38. CARICOM welcomed the Security Council's decision to renew the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti MINUSTAH), as the plight of that country remained deeply troubling. It was seriously concerned that a significant portion of the $6 billion pledged in assistance to Haiti had not yet been disbursed and reiterated the call for donors to fulfil the pledges made at the 2010 International Donors' Conference in New York. The CARICOM countries remained committed to participating in MINUSTAH as it continued to work alongside the

Haitian Government to consolidate the gains made in security, the rule of law and human rights.

39. **Mr. Barrett** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, paid tribute to all the men and women who had died or been injured while conducting United Nations peacekeeping missions

40. A comprehensive approach to mission planning was needed to ensure that mandates were clear and achievable, missions had the necessary resources and peacekeepers received the necessary training. Active partnership among host Governments, the Security Council, the Secretariat and Member States was needed to manage expectations and support overall mission goals.

41. Canada, Australia and New Zealand welcomed the substantial progress made over the past two years in ensuring the protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations, including the design of the necessary tools, such as training modules on protection of civilians and response to conflict-related sexual violence. The threat of sexual violence continued to be used as a weapon in conflict-torn countries, however, notably in Africa. The three countries also welcomed the ongoing development of baseline guidance for military and police components. Civil affairs officers and community liaison personnel performed a vital role in understanding the needs of local communities and providing early warning of the threats they faced, and their efforts to share their best practices and lessons learned n the field were encouraging. Primary responsibility for protecting the civilian population rested with host Governments, however, and mission planning must ensure that sufficient attention and resources were devoted to building their capacities in such areas as security sector reform, strengthening of the rule of law and institution-building.

42. Canada, Australia and New Zealand welcomed the development of the strategy on early peacebuilding support tasks for peacekeepers. Mission planning should ensure a smooth transition to a reconfigured United Nations presence following a mission's departure, including the creation of a strong sense of national ownership. Efforts to enhance United Nations support for the rule of law through the establishment of a joint Global Focal Point arrangement between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were also welcome.

43. Regrettably, at a time when sexual violence was being used as a weapon of war, there had been a dramatic drop in the percentage of women in senior positions in United Nations political, peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions. Canada, Australia and New Zealand looked forward to the implementation of the DPKO forward-looking strategy on women, peace and security and the further deployment of female protection advisers in the field. They supported the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Police Division, but believed that, given the increasing sophistication of United Nations police activities, it was essential that the basic selection standards for officers to be deployed on United Nations missions keep pace with performance expectations.

44. To support peacekeepers in environments that posed a risk to their safety, there was a need for continued dialogue on deterrence and the use of force. Personnel also required mobility to address such threats, often over extremes of terrain and distance. Providing such resources, particularly military helicopters, remained a critical challenge. The use of modern technologies should be considered when assessing mission capability and resource requirements.

45. Canada, Australia and New Zealand also favoured the implementation of component-specific approaches to the development of baseline capability standards and hoped that training materials in support of such approaches would soon be delivered to peacekeeping training institutes. They also looked forward to receiving an update in the near future on the peacekeeping training needs assessment.

46. The Global Field Support Strategy had already proved its worth in improving support timeliness, efficiency and accountability. However, it would clearly benefit from an end-state vision before certain of its key elements were finalized. It would be advisable to wait until the current Regional Service Centre in Entebbe had demonstrated its strengths before implementing further regional service centres.

47. Canada, Australia and New Zealand looked forward to the final report of the Senior Advisory Group on troop reimbursement rates. They noted that the Special Committee's annual reports were becoming increasingly lengthy and that consensus had become more difficult. There was thus a need to continue the dialogue on working methods in the coming months to ensure that difficulties in finalizing the annual reports

did not have a detrimental impact on the overall direction of United Nations peacekeeping policy and operations in the field.

48. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that a perception of legitimacy was essential for the long-term effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. Such operations must therefore be undertaken in accordance with their three fundamental principles and must also have adequate capacity, clear guidelines, logistical and financial resources and appropriate training.

49. CELAC underlined the importance of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as the sole intergovernmental body responsible for formulating policies and guidelines for peacekeeping operations. Acknowledging the flexibility shown by Member States in adopting the Special Committee's latest report, it urged all actors to make renewed efforts to ensure that a substantive and timely report was submitted to the Committee's next session.

50. CELAC also supported the Special Committee's growing interaction with such other bodies as the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Fifth Committee and urged the Security Council to continue to hold private meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries well ahead of its consultations and to take their views into consideration when mission mandates were renewed.

51. CELAC believed that it was essential to ensure the highest level of ethical conduct of peacekeeping personnel and reiterated its commitment to the zero tolerance policy on sexual abuse. It also believed that there could not be sustainable peace without efforts to combat poverty, hunger and inequality. Coordination between peacekeeping operations and the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, including agencies, funds, programmes and the Peacebuilding Commission, must therefore be strengthened. Women also played a vital role in conflict prevention and resolution and their full participation in the maintenance of peace and security must be promoted.

52. The long-term sustainability of the peacekeeping system depended on ensuring that countries that wished to contribute to missions were able to do so. Reimbursements must be made efficiently and promptly. CELAC looked forward to considering the Senior Advisory Group's proposals in that regard. It acknowledged the vital role of MINUSTAH and the international community's efforts to help Haiti. Those efforts would be effective as long as they were carried out under the guidance and leadership of the Government of Haiti and with full respect for its sovereignty.

53. **Mr. Vrailas** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that peacekeeping was a flagship United Nations activity and must be given proper attention. The current debate was a good opportunity to start preparing for the next session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in order to ensure a meaningful and timely outcome. The European Union looked forward to considering the recommendations of the Senior Advisory Group on troop costs, while it felt that options should be considered for shortening the Special Committee's report in order to make it more focused.

54. In times of austerity, there was a need to make sure that existing capabilities could perform in an optimal manner. The European Union welcomed the efforts made along those lines, particularly the focus on performance, standards and training in order to improve quality in the field while ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers. It commended the Secretariat's efforts to make wider use of modern technologies.

55. The European Union also welcomed the continued strong focus on the protection of civilians, a crucial dimension of peacekeeping operations that was often decisive for their success and legitimacy. Given the centrality of the rule of law for peacekeeping operations, it commended the establishment of a joint DPKO/UNDP Global Focal Point for justice, peace and corrections. If properly implemented, that arrangement would allow improved coordination and avoid duplication of effort. The European Union also encouraged ongoing efforts fully to implement Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security and United Nations efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse.

56. Peacekeeping missions played an important role in peacebuilding and continuing work on the peacekeeping/peacebuilding nexus remained important. Stronger civilian capacities allowed for more targeted and successful peacekeeping operations and enhanced national ownership.

57. The European Union and its member States welcomed the increased attention given to the role of regional organizations in peacekeeping. The European Union, for its part, would continue to look for ways to enhance its support for United Nations peacekeeping and to shoulder its responsibilities in its own region.

58. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that his country had provided a successful, pioneering example of host country cooperation with a peacekeeping mission in the case of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which had been deployed even before peace was achieved. The number of military members of the mission had been reduced after security in Darfur had improved thanks to the constant efforts made by his Government. Those efforts had culminated in the signing of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, pursuant to which the Darfur Regional Authority had been created and had begun operating. The challenge, however, was that some rebel movements rejected the principle of negotiation and refused to accede to the Doha Document, preferring to kidnap workers and international employees, terrorize citizens and loot property in order to gain the attention of the international community, which did not fail to perceive the objectives behind such acts.

59. While appreciating the efforts of the Secretary-General as reflected in his report entitled "Civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict" (A/67/312-S/2012/645) and those of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, his delegation wished to point out that refraining from harbouring and supporting the rebels was no less important than developing civilian capacities. Enhancing civilian capacity must also not be a pretext for interference in internal affairs and must be based on a request and approved by the State concerned. Emphasis on South-South cooperation was not a substitute for North-South partnership and technical and financial support. Lastly, national priorities must be respected, in particular with regard to security, reconciliation, justice and the needs and culture of the local society.

60. His delegation insisted that peacekeeping operations must be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles established for peacekeeping: consent of the host State, respect for its sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs. The use of force must be confined to self-defence and must not impair relations between the host country and the mission.

61. It was essential to examine the root causes of conflicts and to find lasting, comprehensive solutions to all their political and economic aspects. That meant broadening the partnership and coordination between peacekeeping missions and host Governments. Peacekeeping operations were not a substitute for the political process. To be successful, they must be accorded political support, the authority delegated to them must be limited and their exit strategy must be clearly defined and susceptible of rapid implementation once the environment became favourable and peace was achieved.

62. **Mr. Hodari** (Rwanda) said that his country had demonstrated a strong commitment to peacekeeping operations and was currently contributing troops or police to seven United Nations missions. In its new capacity as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, it would also be contributing a practical perspective to peacekeeping issues. As peacekeeping operations grew more complex, it was essential to create clear and realistic mandates. Ideally, that could be accomplished through the involvement of troop- and police-contributing countries alongside the Secretariat and the Security Council. One way to do that was through greater involvement in policy-making on peacekeeping operations.

63. A major underlying problem that must be addressed was lack of resources. The difficulty of providing troops and equipment jeopardized the safety of peacekeepers and of the civilians they protected. His delegation therefore supported the Senior Advisory Group's efforts to review the issue of troop costs and prompt reimbursements.

64. It was increasingly evident that the presence of women peacekeepers could reduce conflict and confrontation, empower local women and provide a greater sense of security to local populations. As a leader in women's empowerment, Rwanda was committed to further increasing women's involvement

in peacekeeping operations. It commended the efforts made thus far by all stakeholders and strongly supported further measures to allow women to play their rightful role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

65. As a country that had embarked on its own path of reconciliation and nation-building, Rwanda believed that there must be enhanced integration between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, which included economic recovery, capacity-building and the implementation of quick-impact projects that laid the foundations for long-term development and national ownership.

66. **Mr. Sorour** (Qatar) said that in order to protect the credibility of the United Nations, peacekeeping operations must be conducted in accordance with their guiding principles. At the same time, such operations were no substitute for addressing the root causes of conflicts.

67. It was vital that the human, financial and logistical resources available for each peacekeeping mission be compatible with its mandate and objectives. Lack of resources not only undermined the chances of success but also put peacekeepers at risk. The Security Council and the General Assembly also needed to clarify the issue of criminal responsibility, whether of peacekeepers or of those who committed crimes against them, during the mission period. Since the United Nations could not prosecute those suspected of committing crimes against peacekeepers, host States should be prepared to do so in accordance with their national laws.

68. He suggested that developed countries with highly trained military forces might consider contributing troops to peacekeeping operations instead of relying exclusively on developing or less developed countries' military forces, whose inexperience might reduce a mission's chances of success. To facilitate communication and interaction, troops must also be familiarized with the culture and language of the host country. Likewise, the selection of experts and civilian personnel for peacekeeping missions must be transparent and at least some of the experts recruited should speak the language of the host country fluently. Experts deployed to the various missions in Arab countries should know the country's recent history and speak Arabic, which was an official language of the United Nations.

69. His delegation emphasized that, since more than 80 per cent of peacekeeping troops came from developing countries, troop-contributing countries must be involved in the planning and policy-making process and in decision-making on the deployment of troops. Better communication and coordination between such countries and the Security Council would also enhance transparency and trust.

70. **Mr. Román-Morey** (Peru) said that peacekeeping operations were a very important part of the activities of the United Nations, which would be judged on the success of such operations on the ground, in both conflict and post-conflict situations.

71. Peru's participation in peacekeeping operations had always been guided by the objective of creating a sense of national ownership on the part of the host country, which would be achieved only if all efforts were directed towards strengthening the country's institutions, reinforcing its conflict-resolution capacity, strengthening its national sovereignty and defending its territorial integrity. Peacebuilding must therefore be an inherently national process, in which peacekeeping operations supported national authorities in articulating their priorities and implementing their projects and plans.

72. Peacekeeping operations were just one of the instruments, alongside conflict prevention, the Secretary-General's mediation and good offices and the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission, which the United Nations and its Member States might use to maintain regional and international peace and security. The growing supporting role played by regional organizations should also be acknowledged.

73. His delegation recognized the importance of ongoing evaluation of peacekeeping operations. While the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations played a leading role in that regard, so too did the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and other bodies. Closer coordination and interaction among those bodies should therefore be promoted in order to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping operations. He emphasized the importance of substantive participation by troop- and police-contributing countries in such coordination.

74. His delegation had taken note of the progress report on the implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy. It was very important that the Secretariat and Member States, especially troop-

contributing countries, should continue to coordinate and consult closely to address aspects related to the Strategy's implementation.

75. **Mr. de Alba** (Mexico) said that his delegation had participated actively in the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to ensure that field missions were deployed efficiently and discharged their mandate effectively. However, the Special Committee's latest report made no reference to special political missions, a new and increasingly important mechanism that was very similar to traditional peacekeeping operations, but without a military component. As a result, his delegation had been unable to join the consensus on the report's adoption.

76. The Special Committee already had a full and complex agenda, so it might be prudent to discuss the issue of special political missions in a parallel setting. It could not simply be ignored. Those missions played a significant role in United Nations efforts to maintain international peace and security. An analytical report by the Secretary-General would no doubt promote not only the accountability and transparency of special political missions but also a better understanding of their scope and the challenges they faced in fulfilling their mandates. Consideration of such a report by the Fourth Committee was thus essential.

77. **Mr. Vidal** (Uruguay) said that there was a clear consensus on the important contribution that United Nations peacekeeping operations made to international peace and security, as well as on their legitimacy and high cost-benefit ratio. The complex challenges and the expectations that the United Nations peacekeeping system had to meet were increasing constantly, creating an ongoing need for adaptation and renewed commitment on the part of all stakeholders. Countries that contributed human and material resources to peacekeeping operations were experiencing that changing reality daily and were attempting to adapt as fast as circumstances on the ground demanded, without compromising quality, efficiency or the safety of peacekeeping personnel. The success of such efforts depended on the existence of basic understandings among all stakeholders as to what needed to be done and how. While his delegation recognized the primary role of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security and approving the mandates of peacekeeping operations, it believed that the vital, broad-based political support required for United Nations peacekeeping to be successful came from the organs that brought together all the Member States. The role of the Special Committee, the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly in particular must therefore be strengthened.

78. Peacekeepers had to adapt constantly while in the field and Member States should follow their example by attempting to do the same at Headquarters. One way of doing so was to learn from past experiences and try to improve the way in which countries interacted, starting with a more intensive dialogue among Member States and among political and regional groupings. Another way was to seize opportunities to adapt, such as that presented by the Senior Advisory Group's report, which he hoped would be submitted shortly to the General Assembly for consideration, with a view to improving the United Nations peacekeeping system.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.